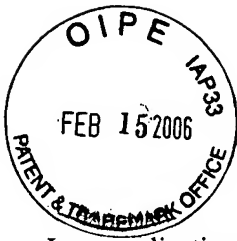


02-16-06

IFW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Berry et al.

Serial No.: 10/691,256

Filed: October 22, 2003

For: Vertebral Body Replacement Implant

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Group Art Unit: 3738

Confirmation No.: 5450

Examiner: Stewart, Alvin J.

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
MAILED NOVEMBER 15, 2005**

I. Introductory Comments

The present paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of November 15, 2005. No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if other fees are necessary, including extension of time fees, the extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including those for the extension of time, to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

A Listing of Pending Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.